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13 **AMCO INSURANCE COMPANY**

14
15 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
16 **CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

17
18 ZARI ESTEGHLAL,

19 Plaintiff,

20 v.
21 AMCO INSURANCE COMPANY,
22 and DOES 1 to 50

23 Defendants.

24 **CASE NO.: 5:23-cv-00235-JGB-SP**

25 **STIPULATED PROTECTIVE**
26 **ORDER**

27
28 **TO THE COURT, ALL PARTIES AND THEIR RESPECTIVE**
29 **COUNSEL OF RECORD:**

30
31 **IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED** to, by and between the
32 parties to this action, Plaintiff ZARI ESTEGHLAL (“Plaintiff”) and Defendant
33 AMCO INSURANCE COMPANY (“Defendant”), through their respective
34 attorneys of record, that certain documents produced in connection with discovery
35 proceedings in this action shall be subject to the following confidentiality agreement
36 (the “Agreement”):

1 **1. A. PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS**

2 Discovery in this action is likely to involve production of confidential,
3 proprietary, or private information for which special protection from public
4 disclosure and from use for any purpose other than prosecuting this litigation may
5 be warranted. Accordingly, the parties hereby stipulate to and petition the Court to
6 enter the following Stipulated Protective Order. The parties acknowledge that this
7 Order does not confer blanket protections on all disclosures or responses to
8 discovery and that the protection it affords from public disclosure and use extends
9 only to the limited information or items that are entitled to confidential treatment
10 under the applicable legal principles. The parties further acknowledge, as set forth in
11 Section 12.3, below, that this Stipulated Protective Order does not entitle them to
12 file confidential information under seal; Civil Local Rule 79-5 sets forth the
13 procedures that must be followed and the standards that will be applied when a party
14 seeks permission from the court to file material under seal.

15 **B. GOOD CAUSE STATEMENT**

16 This action is likely to involve trade secrets, non-public confidential
17 information, and other valuable research, development, commercial, financial,
18 technical and/or proprietary information for which special protection from public
19 disclosure and from use for any purpose other than prosecution of this action is
20 warranted. Such confidential and proprietary materials and information consist of,
21 among other things, Defendant's confidential claims practices, policies, and/or
22 procedures, the parties' confidential business or financial information, information
23 regarding confidential business practices of either party, or other confidential
24 research, development, or commercial information (including information
25 implicating privacy rights of third parties), information otherwise generally
26 unavailable to the public, or which may be privileged or otherwise protected from
27 disclosure under state or federal statutes, court rules, case decisions, or common
28 law. Accordingly, to expedite the flow of information, to facilitate the prompt

1 resolution of disputes over confidentiality of discovery materials, to adequately
2 protect information the parties are entitled to keep confidential, to ensure that the
3 parties are permitted reasonable necessary uses of such material in preparation for
4 and in the conduct of trial, to address their handling at the end of the litigation, and
5 serve the ends of justice, a protective order for such information is justified in this
6 matter. It is the intent of the parties that information will not be designated as
7 confidential for tactical reasons and that nothing be so designated without a good
8 faith belief that it has been maintained in a confidential, non-public manner, and
9 there is good cause why it should not be part of the public record of this case.

10 **2. DEFINITIONS**

11 2.1 Action: This pending lawsuit.

12 2.2 Challenging Party: a Party or Non-Party that challenges the
13 designation of information or items under this Order.

14 2.3 “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items: information (regardless of
15 how it is generated, stored, or maintained) or tangible things that qualify for
16 protection under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(c), and as specified above in
17 the Good Cause Statement.

18 2.4 Counsel: Outside Counsel of Record and House Counsel (as well as
19 their support staff).

20 2.5 Designating Party: a Party or Non-Party that designates information or
21 items that it produces in disclosures or in responses to discovery as
22 “CONFIDENTIAL.”

23 2.6 Disclosure or Discovery Material: all items or information, regardless
24 of the medium or manner in which it is generated, stored, or maintained (including,
25 among other things, testimony, transcripts, and tangible things), that are produced or
26 generated in disclosures or responses to discovery.

27 2.7 Expert: a person with specialized knowledge or experience in a matter
28 pertinent to the litigation who has been retained by a Party or its counsel to serve as

1 an expert witness or as a consultant in this Action.

2 2.8 House Counsel: attorneys who are employees of a party to this Action.
3 House Counsel does not include Outside Counsel of Record or any other outside
4 counsel.

5 2.9 Non-Party: any natural person, partnership, corporation, association or
6 other legal entity not named as a Party to this action.

7 2.10 Outside Counsel of Record: attorneys who are not employees of a party
8 to this Action but are retained to represent a party to this Action and have appeared
9 in this Action on behalf of that party or are affiliated with a law firm that has
10 appeared on behalf of that party, and includes support staff.

11 2.11 Party: any party to this Action, including all of its officers, directors,
12 employees, consultants, retained experts, and Outside Counsel of Record (and their
13 support staffs).

14 2.12 Producing Party: a Party or Non-Party that produces Disclosure or
15 Discovery Material in this Action.

16 2.13 Professional Vendors: persons or entities that provide litigation support
17 services (e.g., photocopying, videotaping, translating, preparing exhibits or
18 demonstrations, and organizing, storing, or retrieving data in any form or medium)
19 and their employees and subcontractors.

20 2.14 Protected Material: any Disclosure or Discovery Material that is
21 designated as “CONFIDENTIAL.”

22 2.15 Receiving Party: a Party that receives Disclosure or Discovery
23 Material from a Producing Party.

24 3. SCOPE

25 The protections conferred by this Stipulation and Order cover not only
26 Protected Material (as defined above), but also (1) any information copied or
27 extracted from Protected Material; (2) all copies, excerpts, summaries, or
28

1 compilations of Protected Material; and (3) any testimony, conversations, or
2 presentations by Parties or their Counsel that might reveal Protected Material.

3 Any use of Protected Material at trial shall be governed by the orders of the
4 trial judge and other applicable authorities. This Order does not govern the use of
5 Protected Material at trial.

6 **4. DURATION**

7 Even after final disposition of this litigation, the confidentiality obligations
8 imposed by this Order shall remain in effect until a Designating Party agrees
9 otherwise in writing or a court order otherwise directs. Final disposition shall be
10 deemed to be the later of (1) dismissal of all claims and defenses in this Action, with
11 or without prejudice; and (2) final judgment herein after the completion and
12 exhaustion of all appeals, rehearings, remands, trials, or reviews of this Action,
13 including the time limits for filing any motions or applications for extension of time
14 pursuant to applicable law.

15 **5. DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL**

16 **5.1 Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for**
17 **Protection.**

18 Each Party or Non-Party that designates information or items for protection
19 under this Order must take care to limit any such designation to specific material
20 that qualifies under the appropriate standards. The Designating Party must designate
21 for protection only those parts of material, documents, items or oral or written
22 communications that qualify so that other portions of the material, documents, items
23 or communications for which protection is not warranted are not swept unjustifiably
24 within the ambit of this Order.

25 Mass, indiscriminate, or routinized designations are prohibited. Designations
26 that are shown to be clearly unjustified or that have been made for an improper
27 purpose (e.g., to unnecessarily encumber the case development process or to impose
28 unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) may expose the Designating

1 Party to sanctions.

2 If it comes to a Designating Party's attention that information or items that it
3 designated for protection do not qualify for protection, that Designating Party must
4 promptly notify all other Parties that it is withdrawing the inapplicable designation.

5.2 Manner and Timing of Designations. Except as otherwise provided in
6 this Order, or as otherwise stipulated or ordered, Disclosure of Discovery Material
7 that qualifies for protection under this Order must be clearly so designated before
8 the material is disclosed or produced.

9 Designation in conformity with this Order requires:

10 (a) for information in documentary form (e.g., paper or electronic
11 documents, but excluding transcripts of depositions or other pretrial or trial
12 proceedings), that the Producing Party affix at a minimum, the legend
13 "CONFIDENTIAL" (hereinafter "CONFIDENTIAL legend"), to each page that
14 contains protected material. If only a portion of the material on a page qualifies for
15 protection, the Producing Party also must clearly identify the protected portion(s)
16 (e.g., by making appropriate markings in the margins).

17 A Party or Non-Party that makes original documents available for inspection
18 need not designate them for protection until after the inspecting Party has indicated
19 which documents it would like copied and produced. During the inspection and
20 before the designation, all of the material made available for inspection shall be
21 deemed "CONFIDENTIAL." After the inspecting Party has identified the
22 documents it wants copied and produced, the Producing Party must determine which
23 documents, or portions thereof, qualify for protection under this Order. Then, before
24 producing the specified documents, the Producing Party must affix the
25 "CONFIDENTIAL legend" to each page that contains Protected Material. If only a
26 portion of the material on a page qualifies for protection, the Producing Party also
27 must clearly identify the protected portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate markings
28 in the margins).

(b) for testimony given in depositions that the Designating Party identifies the Disclosure or Discovery Material on the record, before the close of the deposition all protected testimony.

(c) for information produced in some form other than documentary and for any other tangible items, that the Producing Party affix in a prominent place on the exterior of the container or containers in which the information is stored the legend "CONFIDENTIAL." If only a portion or portions of the information warrants protection, the Producing Party, to the extent practicable, shall identify the protected portion(s).

5.3 Inadvertent Failures to Designate. If timely corrected, an inadvertent failure to designate qualified information or items does not, standing alone, waive the Designating Party's right to secure protection under this Order for such material. Upon timely correction of a designation, the Receiving Party must make reasonable efforts to assure that the material is treated in accordance with the provisions of this Order.

6. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS

6.1. Timing of Challenges. Any Party or Non-Party may challenge a designation of confidentiality at any time and in a manner that is consistent with the Court's Scheduling Order.

6.2 Meet and Confer. The Challenging Party shall initiate the dispute resolution process under Local Rule 37.1 et seq.

6.3 The burden of persuasion in any such challenge proceeding shall be on the Designating Party. Frivolous challenges, and those made for an improper purpose (e.g., to harass or impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) may expose the Challenging Party to sanctions. Unless the Designating Party has waived or withdrawn the confidentiality designation, all parties shall continue to afford the material in question the level of protection to which it is

1 entitled under the Producing Party's designation until the Court rules on the
2 challenge.

3 **7. ACCESS TO AND USE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL**

4 7.1 Basic Principles. A Receiving Party may use Protected Material that is
5 disclosed or produced by another Party or by a Non-Party in connection with this
6 Action only for prosecuting, defending or attempting to settle this Action. Such
7 Protected Material may be disclosed only to the categories of persons and under the
8 conditions described in this Order. When the Action has been terminated, a
9 Receiving Party must comply with the provisions of Section 12 below (FINAL
10 DISPOSITION).

11 Protected Material must be stored and maintained by a Receiving Party at a
12 location and in a secure manner that ensures that access is limited to the persons
13 authorized under this Order.

14 7.2 Disclosure of “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items. Unless
15 otherwise ordered by the court or permitted in writing by the Designating Party, a
16 Receiving Party may disclose any information or item designated
17 “CONFIDENTIAL” only to:

18 (a) the Receiving Party’s Outside Counsel of Record in this Action, as
19 well as employees of said Outside Counsel of Record to whom it is reasonably
20 necessary to disclose the information for this Action;

21 (b) the officers, directors, and employees (including House Counsel) of
22 the Receiving Party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action;

23 (c) Experts (as defined in this Order) of the Receiving Party to whom
24 disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action and who have signed the
25 “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

26 (d) the court and its personnel;

27 (e) court reporters and their staff;

28 (f) professional jury or trial consultants, mock jurors, and Professional

1 Vendors to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action and who have
2 signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

3 (g) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or
4 a custodian or other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information;

5 (h) during their depositions, witnesses, and attorneys for witnesses, in
6 the Action to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary provided: (1) the deposing
7 party requests that the witness sign the form attached as Exhibit A hereto; and (2)
8 they will not be permitted to keep any confidential information unless they sign the
9 “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A), unless otherwise
10 agreed by the Designating Party or ordered by the court. Pages of transcribed
11 deposition testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal Protected Material may
12 be separately bound by the court reporter and may not be disclosed to anyone except
13 as permitted under this Stipulated Protective Order; and

14 (i) any mediators or settlement officers and their supporting personnel,
15 mutually agreed upon by any of the parties engaged in settlement discussions.

16 **8. PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED**
17 **PRODUCED IN OTHER LITIGATION.**

18 If a Party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation
19 that compels disclosure of any information or items designated in this Action as
20 “CONFIDENTIAL,” that Party must:

21 (a) promptly notify in writing the Designating Party. Such notification shall
22 include a copy of the subpoena or court order;

23 (b) promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order to
24 issue in the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the subpoena
25 or order is subject to this Protective Order. Such notification shall include a copy of
26 this Stipulated Protective Order; and

27 (c) cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be pursued
28 by the Designating Party whose Protected Material may be affected.

1 If the Designating Party timely seeks a protective order, the Party served with
2 the subpoena or court order shall not produce any information designated in this
3 action as “CONFIDENTIAL” before a determination by the court from which the
4 subpoena or order issued, unless the Party has obtained the Designating Party’s
5 permission. The Designating Party shall bear the burden and expense of seeking
6 protection in that court of its confidential material and nothing in these provisions
7 should be construed as authorizing or encouraging a Receiving Party in this Action
8 to disobey a lawful directive from another court.

9 **9. A NON-PARTY’S PROTECTED MATERIAL SOUGHT TO BE**
10 **PRODUCED IN THIS LITIGATION**

11 (a) The terms of this Order are applicable to information produced by a
12 Non-Party in this Action and designated as “CONFIDENTIAL.” Such information
13 produced by Non-Parties in connection with this litigation is protected by the
14 remedies and relief provided by this Order. Nothing in these provisions should be
15 construed as prohibiting a Non-Party from seeking additional protections.

16 (b) In the event that a Party is required, by a valid discovery request, to
17 produce a Non-Party’s confidential information in its possession, and the Party is
18 subject to an agreement with the Non-Party not to produce the Non-Party’s
19 confidential information, then the Party shall:

20 (1) promptly notify in writing the Requesting Party and the Non-Party
21 that some or all of the information requested is subject to a confidentiality
22 agreement with a Non-Party;

23 (2) promptly provide the Non-Party with a copy of the Stipulated
24 Protective Order in this Action, the relevant discovery request(s), and a reasonably
25 specific description of the information requested; and

26 (3) make the information requested available for inspection by the Non-
27 Party, if requested.

(c) If the Non-Party fails to seek a protective order from this court within 14 days of receiving the notice and accompanying information, the Receiving Party may produce the Non-Party's confidential information responsive to the discovery request. If the Non-Party timely seeks a protective order, the Receiving Party shall not produce any information in its possession or control that is subject to the confidentiality agreement with the Non-Party before a determination by the court. Absent a court order to the contrary, the Non-Party shall bear the burden and expense of seeking protection in this court of its Protected Material.

10. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

If a Receiving Party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has disclosed Protected Material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under this Stipulated Protective Order, the Receiving Party must immediately (a) notify in writing the Designating Party of the unauthorized disclosures, (b) use its best efforts to retrieve all unauthorized copies of the Protected Material, (c) inform the person or persons to whom unauthorized disclosures were made of all the terms of this Order, and (d) request such person or persons to execute the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” that is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

**11. INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE
PROTECTED MATERIAL**

When a Producing Party gives notice to Receiving Parties that certain inadvertently produced material is subject to a claim of privilege or other protection, the obligations of the Receiving Parties are those set forth in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(5)(B). This provision is not intended to modify whatever procedure may be established in an e-discovery order that provides for production without prior privilege review. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Evidence 502(d) and (e), insofar as the parties reach an agreement on the effect of disclosure of a communication or information covered by the attorney-client privilege or work product protection, the

1 parties may incorporate their agreement in the stipulated protective order submitted
2 to the court.

3 **12. MISCELLANEOUS**

4 12.1 Right to Further Relief. Nothing in this Order abridges the right of any
5 person to seek its modification by the Court in the future.

6 12.2 Right to Assert Other Objections. By stipulating to the entry of this
7 Protective Order, no Party waives any right it otherwise would have to object to
8 disclosing or producing any information or item on any ground not addressed in this
9 Stipulated Protective Order. Similarly, no Party waives any right to object on any
10 ground to use in evidence of any of the material covered by this Protective Order.

11 12.3 Filing Protected Material. A Party that seeks to file under seal any
12 Protected Material must comply with Civil Local Rule 79-5. Protected Material may
13 only be filed under seal pursuant to a court order authorizing the sealing of the
14 specific Protected Material at issue. If a Party's request to file Protected Material
15 under seal is denied by the court, then the Receiving Party may file the information
16 in the public record unless otherwise instructed by the court.

17 **13. FINAL DISPOSITION**

18 After the final disposition of this Action, as defined in paragraph 4, within 60
19 days of a written request by the Designating Party, each Receiving Party must return
20 all Protected Material to the Producing Party or destroy such material. As used in
21 this subdivision, "all Protected Material" includes all copies, abstracts, compilations,
22 summaries, and any other format reproducing or capturing any of the Protected
23 Material. Whether the Protected Material is returned or destroyed, the Receiving
24 Party must submit a written certification to the Producing Party (and, if not the same
25 person or entity, to the Designating Party) by the 60 day deadline that (1) identifies
26 (by category, where appropriate) all the Protected Material that was returned or
27 destroyed and (2) affirms that the Receiving Party has not retained any copies,
28 abstracts, compilations, summaries or any other format reproducing or capturing any

1 of the Protected Material. Notwithstanding this provision, Counsel are entitled to
2 retain an archival copy of all pleadings, motion papers, trial, deposition, and hearing
3 transcripts, legal memoranda, correspondence, deposition and trial exhibits, expert
4 reports, attorney work product, and consultant and expert work product, even if such
5 materials contain Protected Material. Any such archival copies that contain or
6 constitute Protected Material remain subject to this Protective Order as set forth in
7 Section 4 (DURATION).

8 **14. VIOLATION**

9 Any violation of this Order may be punished by appropriate measures
10 including, without limitation, contempt proceedings and/or monetary sanctions.

11 **IT IS SO STIPULATED, THROUGH COUNSEL OF RECORD.**

12 Dated: October 2, 2023

HINES HAMPTON PELANDA LLP

13
14 By: /s/ Christine M. Emanuelson
15 Marc S. Hines
16 Christine M. Emanuelson
17 Sara M. Rynerson
18 Attorneys for Defendant,
19 AMCO Insurance Company

20 Dated: September 27, 2023

LAW OFFICES OF BURG & BROCK

21 By: /s/ Craig D. Rackohn
22 Craig D. Rackohn
23 Attorney for Plaintiff,
24 Zari Esteghlal

25 **ORDER**

26 **FOR GOOD CAUSE SHOWN, IT IS SO ORDERED.**

27 DATED: October 4, 2023

28
29 Honorable Sheri Pym
30 U.S. Magistrate Judge

EXHIBIT A

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND

I, _____ [print or type full name], of _____ [print or type full address] declare under penalty of perjury that I have read in its entirety and understand the Stipulated Protective Order that was issued by the United States District Court for the Central District of California on _____, 2023 in the case of Zari Esteghlal v. AMCO Insurance Company, U.S. District Court Case No. 5:23-cv-00235-JGB-SP. I agree to comply with and to be bound by all the terms of this Stipulated Protective Order and I understand and acknowledge that failure to so comply could expose me to sanctions and punishment in the nature of contempt. I solemnly promise that I will not disclose in any manner any information or item that is subject to this Stipulated Protective Order to any person or entity except in strict compliance with the provisions of this Order.

I further agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the Central District of California for the purpose of enforcing the terms of this Stipulated Protective Order, even if such enforcement proceedings occur after termination of this action. I hereby appoint _____ [print or type full name] of _____ [print or type full address and telephone number] as my California agent for service of process in connection with this action or any proceedings related to enforcement of this Stipulated Protective Order.

Date:

City and State where sworn and signed:

Printed name:

Signature: